

MTM/VF EIS

Community Narrative: Scarlet, West Virginia

Interviewer: Tell me again a little bit about how you and your family came to settle on Scarlet Road and the pre, before the mining came in. What was the, what you liked about it here.

Resident: It was a, it's a family community. My grandfather owned, probably the biggest majority of this. He lived down here where the stone wall is; there is a piece of stone took out of the corner of it. That was the home place. There was no houses up in here 'til then. And I told you, this was another mile and a half to two miles longer, it is up to the valley fill right here now. Most of these people are my aunts and uncles that lived down here. All the houses that are gone or falling in are aunts and uncle or cousins that died or was brought out and they've left. Up the other fork, have you been up the other fork?

Interviewer: Umm hum. We were up there yesterday.

Resident: We are all kind of family community. You know, everybody knew each other. There was approximately sixty or seventy families, I believe, at one time. I think there is what? Three or four up there now? It has really dropped off. This place was full of kids. It was just a community where, you know, we had a ball field. You can't tell where the ball field was but it's at the forks down there. They done away with that about ten years ago when they started this mountaintop down on 119, down there.

Interviewer: Did they... how was the ball field... was the land bought or?

Resident: No. It was at... the name of the cemetery - it was called the "specific name" cemetery, it's "specific name" cemetery - it was off there beside the railroad track. Then when they started mountaintop down there, this Consolidated, they came up there and redone the railroad tracks. And they owned so much of it so they took a dozer and "sphll", killed the ball field. Let's see... the quality of life was well you know, I guess you call us poor, you know. But we didn't bother anybody and nobody bothers us. Everybody worked their mines underground and there was no such thing as strip job you know. Like I told you, I worked almost 20 years underground. My dad worked for Island Creek down here. You see, Island Creek had a big underground mine down here from '49 to '69. And when they shut down that is when they started trying to strip.

Interviewer: Un huh. Can I just ask? Did this community grow up around the underground mines? Did a lot of the people who worked, who lived here?

Resident: No. No it didn't... Well, I guess in a way it did grow up around it because, since my grandfather owned all of this, naturally, all of his sons had a job whenever they wanted it. They mined underneath his property. And he gave them access, see there's no road up here except down to the homeplace down there, and he gave them a road, a right-of-way with a road. They built a

road, but he gave them the right-of-way to come up here. And they have substations. You know what a substation is?

Interviewer: No.

Resident: That's where they have the electricity. They drill a hole down into the mines and they put electricity down.

Interviewer: Okay.

Resident: Instead of trying to take it underground, they come on the surface and drill a hole down. They had one up here on the hill. And one down the road here a little ways, you can't hardly tell where it's at. There's a brick house down here on the right. Going back out right here, there was a substation there at one time. And that is how, I guess maybe you can say that it grew up... the community grew up around that. In a way.

Interviewer: So, you said the underground mine closed about when?

Resident: About '68 or '69. I was in the service when it closed. It was running good when I left in '77. I think it shut down in '68 or '69.

Interviewer: Un huh. So you moved back here about when?

Resident: In '71. That has been thirty years ago.

Interviewer: Long time for anyone to live in one place these days.

Resident: Well, I came back here in '71. I stayed here until '78, then I moved to Delbarton. I lived in Delbarton fifteen years and then I moved back here. My dad stayed here. I am one of... my brother lives up here. That is where he lives. As a matter of fact, he was the oldest employee for Arch Coal on the job. I ream him all the time. I say, "Look what you done."

Interviewer: Did he work for the underground mine and then when that closed?

Resident: No. He started working for them in '70, when they first started...when this, this job was called Hobet 07. They started it in, I am not sure on the date, '69 or '70. They started down here on the hill. You can see the old strip. But that was... they got that permit, from what I understand, what I have been told I really don't know, it was on a temporary thing. The State told them to do it, so they could see what they could do. It was a new thing that they wanted to try. So, they got started on that and they'd seen what they could really produce with nothing. And that is where it all started from. They actually started... when they started they blasted everything over the mountain. It was terrible. It was terrible. You could see the difference. I mean when they loaded

it up it just... they used it all. But a lot of it was shot over the mountain and was just left.

Interviewer: Right.

Resident: That was good. It made an awful lot of money. Then they said wait a minute, blowing it over the hill is no good. So, they stopped and thought about it and we'll try, what we call now a box cut. Called a box cut. They go in and they don't shoot over the hill. When they shot it's loaded up and carried back. It's called back fill. The spoil and overburden is back fill. So, once they remove the coal the dirt in front of it is hauled back behind then to reclaim. So they reclaim it as they go. They have an open fill of so many hundred yards. Which is good. Which was *real* good. You can tell there is a world of a difference if you go and look on that. You can drive and look on it. The road is still there. A world of difference. That was good. That didn't bother anything or hurt anything. That was good. They mined that for about seven... about seven years. Of course, that took them all the way to the head of the left fork, which runs into this, you see. It's tied into that. And that was real good. It didn't hurt anything. They shot hard, but as far as water damage, it really didn't show up. I guess probably because it was... they really wasn't shooting that hard, because there just really wasn't that much to shoot on that. So ah... there was no water problems. The water problems began in the '80s. They moved... that was in '76. They moved... they moved to the Hobet job here in '76 they started. In '80 is when the water problems started. My mother had a well drilled. I was about ten or eleven years old. She lived up there then. She had a well drilled when I was about ten or eleven and it was about 75 feet deep. It's good water. No problems. Never had a filter. Never heard of a filter. What's that, you know? It was real good water. In '80 the water starts to go. They come in and say, "We'll drill you a well. We'll put you a filter on it.... Anything you want".

Interviewer II: That was the mining company?

Resident: The mining company, yeah. Then after they got by you know what happened? They just... you know, sue 'em.

Interviewer: Was it the same company, that was doing like the box cuts down here that was over there?

Resident: Well, I *say* it was the same company... When it was here it was independently owned, but it was bought by Ashland Oil.

Interviewer: Who is Hobet?

Resident: Yeah, they bought it. In '70, I think. Before they left here, Ashland Oil bought it. Then I think by the time they got over on that side, it was actually, solely owned by Ashland Oil. Out of Gatlinsburg, I guess that is where their headquarters are. So, then in, what about five years ago, Arch Coal bought them. So, that's just the... The time line I am not sure on but that is just the

way it happened.

Interviewer: So what kind of changes? ...you described a community that was very tight knit, family and you had a ball field and that sort of thing. How... what kind of changes would you say occurred in the community during the mining?

Resident: Ah, when all the problems started in and they ah, more people complained, you know, about the water and stuff. The dust was real bad. You can see how close we are to it. The dragline boom, you can see it right there it was so big, and naturally you can see it right here. But you could see it through the trees and it would swing around. The closer they got to the community the more problems, naturally they are going to have more trouble. So their way around was to buy you, or you know, water wells, or whatever. So they started buying people out. And as they started that, they started pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Interviewer: What were your experiences with that?

Resident: With that? They offered to buy, now I didn't get into it. I moved back here in '93 and I really didn't get involved in it until then. My dad died in '90. I moved back here in 1993. And ah, my mom is seventy some years old. I told her well, we ought to go ahead and sell and get out, and it is only going to be worse because they kept buying people, you know. Naturally if, you're you know... it was a good thing 'cause they killed the community. The water goes and everybody falls off. The property that they purchased will set to idle for two hundred years. And you see the old houses now and that they just literally walk off and left, like a slum lord. You know, just walked off and left. And she finally agreed to it and I got a hold of this land agent. His name was "specific name", I don't know if he's still there but. But he didn't want to give her enough to go buy a place back. You can't give your place up or sell your home that is convenient to those people. You'll put yourself out on the street. You just can't do that. That's not good business and that's not smart either. But that, that was their attitude: "Take it or nothing," and it was nothing. But you hear all kinds of things. Families talk. This one talks. From what we could get, some people really got paid for their places and some didn't. But of course people who didn't aren't going to admit it, you know, that they got took. But, the bottom line is she didn't sell and we're still here. And they brought her drinking water for months, then they quit. Then she complained to the State DEP, and they told her that there was nothing they could do about it. ...

Interviewer II: And when you say pit neighbor against neighbor, when they started to buy people out, what was the attitude there in terms of neighbor against neighbor? What do you mean by that?

Resident: Well they would tell some people not to drink the water and tell the others there wasn't nothing wrong with it. Now how can you go... Did you talk to "specific name" and "specific name"?

Interviewer: We haven't. We haven't had a chance to talk to them yet. We missed them last night.

Resident: They probably won't talk to you.

Interviewer: You think so?

Resident: Just, just, you know... Because "specific name" still works for them.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Resident: And that was his mother that I told you, that I was told they told her not to drink the water because she was sick. They told her not to drink the water and she lives right above my mother. So, and he still works for them.

Interviewer: That is interesting. We'll have to talk about that a little later. I'd curious to talk to them, I hope. Did you notice... well let me put it this way: What were your interactions with the coal company personally? Did you complain about anything specific to them? Did you complain to DNR or?

Resident: Not to DNR. DNR is never been involved in this, as far as I know. It has always been the State DEP. I always complained about the water and the dust. The dust was terrible.

Interviewer: So you complained straight to the State?

Resident: State DEP, yeah. I moved here in August of '93. In February of '94, February 3rd or the 4th this records had been destroyed. I'd been told that they can destroy those blast records after five years.

Interviewer: Who told you to do that?

Resident: The State guy told me they could take and destroy it after five years.

Interviewer: What was your understanding for why?

Resident: I don't know. But on that particular day the dragline on the top of the valley there, they put off a blast of a hundred and three thousands pounds of explosives. It was an open shot. You know what that means?

Interviewer II: It was basically near the surface right?

Resident: It wasn't confined - it was open. It hit a fracture in the rock, and the shock foreman and his people didn't pay attention to what they was doing and they over loaded. Didn't realize what they were doing. I guess they estimate. I don't know if they really knew. But they put down on paper a hundred and three thousand pounds of explosives. When it went out it tore the back end of the dragline out. It was down for about two to four days to a week. I was fortunate. This mobile home is tied down. I got eight or ten ties on it. Normally there are about four. I knew I was in a blasting area, so when I put it here I really tied it down. But it shook it *hard* because it threw me against the faucet there. I just walked in here and was getting some water, you know, and wham. I didn't know what happened and when I stepped on the porch there I could not see that big tree at that point at the bottom there. I *knew* it had killed the people up there. I just knew it. I just knew it killed 'em; you couldn't see nothing. There was a wall of dust. I could believe it.

Interviewer II: Did people end up getting hurt?

Resident: No. Nobody got hurt. Nobody got hurt. I listened, then I heard somebody holler and I said well somebody is alive. But the dust, you just couldn't see. And I knew... I just knew that they had killed someone.

Interviewer II: Are they supposed to give off warning signals before they do that?

Resident: They are supposed to have ah... a whistle or something.

Interviewer II: But did you hear anything?

Resident: Nah, I didn't hear it.

Interviewer II: There was no warning? I mean that you could hear, that they were going to set off a charge?

Resident: Ah... I don't know. To my knowledge, I don't think I ever did hear it. But normally they did do, they did, normally they did do there blasting around four to six.

Interviewer: So you had a basic time frame, you knew that probably if it was going to come that is when?

Resident: Yeah, but if you are not sitting there looking, then you don't pay attention to what time it is. Oops, they are going to blast. Well, hang on. No, that was just one of the things they did... with total disregard to people that lived around here. Just one. They constantly, they constantly, the surface water they constantly messed that up. With total disregard, and the State DEP won't do anything.

Interviewer: What kind of... what kind of messed up do you mean?

Resident: Well, they put black water in the creek. That is a no, no. You are not supposed to put black water in the creek.

Interviewer: What kind of... Do you have any direct contact with the coal company about umm, any of what was going on?

Resident: Any direct?

Interviewer: Yes.

Resident: No, because I would not talk to them. Because the bottom line, if you did, if you could catch one of them, was - sue us.

Interviewer: What are you going to do about it? Sue us?

Resident: Right. You going do something with the water? No. We can't do this. We can't do that. No. Sue us.

Interviewer II: You're the little man.

Resident: You're the little guy and ah - Try it, ten years from now you may get it in court, if you've got enough money to retain a lawyer for that period of time. And these lawyers around here, they wouldn't take it. Probably want to take you money, but you would never get it anywhere, so why bother? You can't fight it. If you don't have the State behind you, you are not going to get anywhere.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any direct contact or to your knowledge did your parents or your family have any direct contact with the coal company before they came in?

Resident: Before the coal company came in?

Interviewer: Yes, before the surface mine came in?

Resident: No. No. That is one of the things we talked about. To my knowledge they never came in here and done a thing. They were supposed to do an environmental study on the water and all of that stuff. I asked them for a copy of it and I never did get it. I don't believe it was ever done.

Interviewer: How about any pre blast surveys or anything like that?

Resident: They did do a pre blast survey on some homes. My mother had hers done. They

done a lot of damage to her - house is old. That is one of the things that they haggled is that - Your house is old, you know so we are not going to do anything. They done a pre-blast on it. There was damage on it along with the water. She did harass them long enough that they did finally come and say well we will fix ah, drill two wells and they were suppose to fix a couple more things and I can't remember exactly what that was, put a new roof on her house. Ah they drilled a new well here for my dad. Drilled her a new well. But they never did fix the roof and stuff. And I still have the paper that they signed that they would do that. And the DEP refused to enforce, to even talk to them about that. To make them do what they promised too. They wouldn't do it. And their bottom line was we are not going to do it so. I had a report. This is my last one.

Interviewer II: That's thick!

Interviewer: You just gave the transcriber a heart attack.

Resident: This is my last one as of August the 17th about my water. See my well out there has gone dry.

Interviewer II: Where do you get your water now "specific name"?

Resident: I'll show you after a while. Yeah, the 17th. Terrible. This is just one of... This is between me and my mom's place.

Interviewer II: This is a copy of the complaint investigation with the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection.

Resident: And that is as far as it goes.

Interviewer: So, it's basically like a receipt of the registered complaint.

Resident: Complaint. They acknowledged that I complained about it and ah it pretty well dies on the vine.

Interviewer II: What does it mean by investigation results terminated?

Resident: It means, they're just not going to do anything. The volume of my water kept... my drill well out there, the one that they drilled for my Dad... one of them. They drilled another one out here and I filled it up with concrete because it cracked and the creek was running in it. I wish I hadn't done that, but I did. I wish I hadn't done that. But they have a record of it when they checked it. I told them that I kept... see they got my dad a filter to put on it - bought him a filter for it. And I noticed over the last since I have been here, the water kept going down, the volume. And the guy told me, he said, "Well when you run out of water, we're going to have to do something about it." I said it's going to happen. I kept telling them it's going to happen. Finally one day I got

up and it all shut down. The filters ran out of water and it shut down, which it is suppose to. So, that was a couple months ago. I went to him and told him, I said, "I ran out of water last night." He said, "Keep an eye on it." You know, like he is *really* going to help me this time, you know. So I kept an eye on it, you know, and a day or two later well it done all right. Then the 17th, I guess. I said it is gone. I said there is no sense fooling with it. I said it is gone. It is time to do something about it. I went and filled that out. You see how far it went.

Interviewer: And he in this case was who?

Resident: He was the inspector of the DEP for this area. For this job.

Interviewer: He was a mine inspector from DEP?

Resident: Right.

Interviewer II: So, you have no water at all now?

Resident: I have water but I am having to work for it. It is a daily problem.

Interviewer II: You have to wait for it to fill?

Resident: Fills up or I have to adjust it. I have 10 minutes reserve in it. And it is not enough to backwash one of those filters. It takes two and a half hours to run those filters out.

Interviewer II: You often during the course of the day run your well dry?

Resident: Yeah, I run dry during the day. I don't use a whole lot of water.

Interviewer II: You watch how much water you use?

Resident: Yes. I haven't washed a car in three years.

Interviewer II: These dry periods like during the summers... do you, you're really ah ...

Resident: Terrible. Yes, I really have to watch the water I don't have a whole lot...

Interviewer II: Do you have to go outside the area to get water? Like bottled water or? Right there?

Interviewer: Right. Jugs.

Resident: That's drinking water. But now you see, you see what kind of problems it has created? And really we didn't ask a whole lot. After they destroyed the community water we asked them to pay for what was lost. Really you can't pay for what we lost, because we lost our independence. We were self-reliant mostly, you know we worked outside but you know we took care of ourselves. We had our own water, our own places to live and now they are going to come along, and because they want to mine coal that we had to up and give it to them. That was their attitude.

Interviewer II: So, your feeling was, you may not have minded the coal company... the mining itself, because it was, I mean what your feeling was...

Resident: The mountaintop?

Interviewer II: Right.

Resident: They way they do it I don't think it is really that profitable, considering everything.

Interviewer II: But in terms of like mining is, you know....

Resident: Mining itself? I am not against the mining. Is that what you are talking about?

Interviewer II: Yeah, I am just wondering, you know, you probably realize maybe importance of mining and how it serves the economy but the actual impacts on local communities, like Scarlet, and what may not be and what is not done to ah.. reattribute your loses, so to speak, that is probably where the...

Resident: Well like I said. If they knew, they knew what they were going to do in here, why didn't they come beforehand? Because, they didn't want to pay the people for their places or their property. Because, they knew they were going to destroy it.

Interviewer II: Did you get offered to get bought out?

Resident: Yeah at one time. But like I said they didn't offer enough... You got to have money to buy a home back. You can't give them your place and go start paying a mortgage and all this stuff for their benefit.

Interviewer II: Right.

Resident: That is like I came to your community and say I will give you so much for your place and then you've got to go. But why should you, I mean, you know, do that for me? Your not obligated to do that for me. For what?

Interviewer II: Exactly.

Resident: And that was their attitude. But this is all the complaints over the years.

Interviewer II: This is a notebook probably 4 inches thick of complaints just like you showed us here.

Resident: Yeah.

Interviewer: The property that your home sits on now, does your mother own that or do you own this property?

Resident: She does.

Interviewer: She does. It is getting windy out huh?

Resident: Oh, it is terrible out there. My electricity went off last night about 12:30 and it came on about 7:30 this morning.

Interviewer: The electricity was out where we were too last night.

Interviewer II: Yeah, we heard the wind and rain last night. Woke us up, too.

Resident: Yeah it was terrible out there.

Interviewer: What can you tell me about where you would see these permits being posted publicly. Did you ever find those?

Resident: Those were in the newspaper.

Interviewer: Did you, do you get a newspaper here that you see them in regularly?

Resident: No, not now I don't. No. They did that. I guess they really did publicize those like they were supposed to. That is one thing that I would say they probably did do right.

Interviewer II: Did you ever see the permits in the paper?

Resident: Sure.

Interviewer II: Were they legible? Could you understand what the locations were about?

Resident: Most of them. I would say about 90 percent of the time you could.

Interviewer II: You could understand it by reading what, where the locations were? Where the permit was actually being applied, to the area?

Resident: Yes. Most people can't but, you know...

Interviewer II: When you say a lot of people can't, what do you mean by that?

Resident: Well, can't read a map or understand the terms that they... they ah write under the permit and stuff. For some people that are not familiar with mining...

Interviewer II: As you are.

Resident: Right.

Interviewer II: But the average person...

Resident: ...person may have difficulty, you know, understanding what they're talking about. They may be able to look at that map, if it is real legible like you say, "Yeah I can see what this is. Yeah, this is all 119 or Dunkin Fork or Myrtle or Trace Creek," and you know, they could tell where it was at. But they may not understand the terms that's written into the permit. There may be an Article 3 renewal on the water or new permit completely.

Interviewer II: Which you understand?

Resident: Yeah, I did.

Interviewer II: But anybody not evolved with the coal mining operations may have...

Resident: They had trouble they still have. All the people may not understand. My mother didn't understand.

Interviewer II: Interesting. Interesting.

Interviewer: We have talked a lot about the negative impacts and the physical impacts in the community and you know, what would you say were the benefits here?

Resident: The benefits?

Interviewer: Um hum.

Resident: I'd say probably the only good benefit to say is if you are working for them.

Interviewer: And, take your example, for example, where were you working during this time period?

Resident: I worked underground.

Interviewer: You were underground?

Resident: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you ever consider going to work for them?

Resident: I worked for them when they had their prep plant down here. Ah, that's a good question that you asked. In 1986, I think it was. I was unemployed and I, they had a couple openings and I went to a talk with the fella that was in charge of that. And he offered to sell me a job.

Interviewer: What do you mean sell you a job?

Resident: For money.

Interviewer: He basically...

Resident: He was a foreman he was in charge...

Interviewer: A bribe?

Resident: A bribe.

Interviewer: Humm, and what was your...

Resident: I was shocked. I was stunned. I really didn't catch it until the interview was over. And I was informed, "Yes that is exactly what they are doing. Didn't you know it?" I said, "*No*, I did not know it." I said, "What happen to honor?" He said, "There is no honor among those people."

Interviewer II: So if you wanted a job you had to pay?

Resident: You had to buy it.

Interviewer II: You had to buy your job. Interesting.

Interviewer: So, what did you do? Where did you go to get work after that?

Resident: I was floored. Oh I went back underground, you know. Yeah, during that period of time, the coal industry went up and down. These guys here were real fortunate. That's one... like I say, if you were working for those people it was good. Because my... my brother who worked for them, never lost any time. They, when I worked underground it was up and down there for a *long time*. Up and down. And I would just from one to... because it was, it was,... I don't know. It was just... I guess when these guys had the big operation, I was working for smaller people who would start up and shut down for a while, you know, just up and down. But, these guys could run the large amount, you know the large tonnage. And I guess that's really what kept them going.

Interviewer: Did you ever discuss what you had encountered when you try to get a job there, with your brother? While he was working there?

Resident: That is who informed me as to what was going on. He said, "Didn't you know it?" I said, "No, I did not know it."

Interviewer: Do you think he had gone through the same thing?

Resident: No. No. See he had worked there since, for thirty years. He was there,... They bought, ... he was working for that company that they bought. So they bought him when they came in.

Interviewer: Well that is interesting.

Interviewer II: To say the least. Did the other, so basically the people in Scarlet, as a community as a whole, most of those people in here were not employed by the mining company that operated?

Resident: There were, I am going to try and tell you how many there were. I think there were four.

Interviewer II: Four people?

Resident: No, I think there was five.

Interviewer II: Five. And how many, I assume they were all male, all men? How many men, you know, were in the community here in Scarlet during that time period? That is five compared to how many men?

Resident: Ummm. There was *several*. Several

Interviewer II: So, out of that five would be considered maybe a small percentage?

Resident: I would probably say maybe 20 percent. Well you take, it is not that big of a community, so five guys, you know... There was several people that they could of hired. I may be wrong in that. I believe there was just five.

Interviewer II: So was there benefit of employment, offered by the mines, if you lived here?

Resident: No. No.

Interviewer: What did ah ... once this operation started to wind down, the five, or the four or five people that worked for them... Did they move with them and move out of the community? Or do they still live here and still work for them or?

Resident: No. No. There is no one working for them now.

Interviewer: That lives here?

Resident: That lives here.

Interviewer: What would you say, do you think happened?

Resident: A couple of them... let's see here, one of them still does work for them. Just one.

Interviewer II: In the Scarlet community?

Resident: Yeah, but he doesn't live here now. He was one of those that they bought out up the left fork. So he is out of the community, but he still works for them. Just like, just like "specific name" and "specific name"; he still works for them.

Interviewer: ... and the other three or four?

Resident: ... are retired or they work somewhere else.

Interviewer II: Did the coal companies, you know during the mountaintop mining operations, in your opinion... Did they have good public relations with the communities and then the individuals like yourself that lived in like Scarlet? Did they actually have good public relations in your opinion?

Resident: Not in my opinion. No.

Interviewer II: Other than publishing the mine permits, would you say that was part of their public relations or there was a lot more....

Resident: I would think that was required by law.

Interviewer II: Right. So above what was required...

Resident: They didn't do anything more than what was required.

Interviewer: I wanted to ask you a little bit about your decision to stay verses leaving. You had said that the offer they had been made to your mom for the property and presumably for her home and maybe your home too, was not enough to really purchase something somewhere else in your opinion. Is that what you ...?

Resident: Right. Right.

Interviewer: Can you elaborate for me, a little bit on your decision to stay? Was there ever a question that maybe you would take that money anyways, because you really wanted to leave?

Resident: Ah, no. You can't go unless you got money. You know, you travel. You know the price of things, ah... I watch the homes go up everyday. Ah.. try to move right now so much it costs. Terrible. Terrible.

Interviewer II: Now when you moved from Delbarton, you lived in Delbarton for 15 years. Your decision, maybe you mentioned this earlier and I apologize, your decision to move back into Scarlet... What was your decision to move back in to Scarlet from Delbarton?

Resident: Well I didn't own my place up there. So I was living on a piece of land that my brother owned and I'd just moved back. My dad died and he had stayed here.

Interviewer II: In Scarlet?

Resident: Yeah. So I decided just to come back to the old home place.

Interviewer: You said your dad had died so your mom was alone at that point.

Resident: Right. And my wife was working in Logan so it was kind of beneficial for everybody just to move, you know.

Interviewer II: And when you moved back into Scarlet was the mining activity sort of winding down?

Resident: No. It was going strong. Remember the blast....

Interviewer II: It was still going strong. Because you had said, and that tells me because you had said about the, you could see the dragline boom and the blast that had occurred. So you moved back into the ...

Resident: Yeah, right into it.

Interviewer II: Into the heart of the activity.

Resident: Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer II: Now is there any more opportunity for this valley fill to expand or has it gone as far as it...

Resident: Well they tell me that ... I believe it is illegal. I believe it is too big. Remember that West Virginia had a problem with that. Governor Underwood signed a thing to extend those valley fills, which, I thought was illegal... was contrary to the Federal Government. That was the big brew-ha-ha that I think started all this. And I think that thing was illegal when they, way before their initial, when they initiated that thing. Because that thing has to be a mile and a half to two miles long.

Interviewer II: How far from your house here to that valley fill, the toe of it, are you? If we would drive up?

Resident: If you ... Once more I don't know. But the law on it, and they're in violation of the law, too, because there is a house right over top of it. You took a picture of that right? It is all messed up.

Interviewer: Yeah. I think.... well we can drive up there and we can look. But what would you estimate.

Resident: What from my trailer here now?

Interviewer: Ahh, hun.

Resident: About four hundred feet. That is why,.. I take it back. Now what are we talking about to the toe of the valley fill?

Interviewer II: Right the toe. I would assume that is ...

Resident: Rock ford? To where it's rock ford?

Interviewer II: Right.

Resident: About eight hundred feet, maybe.

Interviewer: Eight hundred feet?

Resident: I am just guessing.

Interviewer: Ahhh, hun.

Resident: But the house right there... there's a house right on top of it.

Interviewer: I think that pretty well covers most of the things that I wanted to ask you about. Is there anything you wanted to add that we didn't talk about?

Resident: I just think it is terribly unfair. What got me about this whole thing, maybe we didn't do it right.... They have a Federal Office of Surface Mining. I have never seen one of those people. Where are they at? Was we suppose to go to those people too?

Interviewer: You feel you've given the DEP...

Resident: Yeah, too much of the... we should of went, maybe we should of went to the Federal Office of Surface Mining.

Interviewer II: So you feel that your opportunity to contact the people who you felt were in charge was, in your own words you can tell me, I am trying to phrase the question.... Did you feel in your opinion you had an adequate opportunity to talk to the right people? I mean certainly, by showing this stack you thought you were talking to the right people...

Resident: I thought I was talking to the right people that would take care of it. Because the State was issuing the permits.

Interviewer II: So, there was no information given to you to say if you have concerns or want to talk to someone these are the people you should be talking to. You just sort of assumed whom you should be talking to?

Resident: Right. I did talk to these people once a year or two ago and it was kind of a negative,

you know, reply that I got from them. That if the State wasn't involved in it, you know, there wasn't much they could do.

Interviewer: So you contacted the Federal OSM office?

Resident: Right. Right. And I just kind of gave up on, 'cause if those guys weren't going to do nothing then....

Interviewer II: You sort of lost hope when...

Resident: Yeah, you just give up on it. You can see here, it's kind of a lost deal, you know what I mean?

Interviewer II: And of all these complaints were any of them positive reaction or at least follow-ups that actually your complaints were addressed?

Resident: Ah, when my water ah... they still check my water once a month. This company has a contract and they come to take water samples. And ah... when he gets it and it is out of compliance he normal tells me. Sometimes he denies it. And when it is out of compliance I call these people and say, "The water is out of compliance." Never goes anywhere.

Interviewer: Do you get a record of the report?

Resident: Yeah. Yeah, but I was informed something out there the other day that if you are out of compliance they doctor the results.

Interviewer: Who? Who told you...?

Resident: The contractors.

Interviewer: Say that again.

Resident: The contractor.

Interviewer: The contractor told you?

Resident: Told me that if it goes in the lab bad, it usually comes out good. So unless I run my own water sample through my own lab and stuff, I don't know.

Interviewer: Which is certainly something that would cost a lot of money to do?

Resident: Sure. Don't you think? To take water samples and then break it down.

Interviewer II: What kind of things are they finding in your ...

Resident: Water?

Interviewer II: Water?

Resident: They take the iron and all of that stuff in there.

Interviewer II: Iron content is pretty high?

Resident: Magnesium... and all that stuff. All kind of stuff. That is pretty isn't it?

Interviewer: What have you got a stack of about 50 papers there? Is that the report?

Resident: That is some of the stuff they check.

Interviewer II: These are your water sample reports from the contractor, I assume, telling you ...

Interviewer: Are they in order just about?

Resident: Just about, yeah.

Interviewer: Dating back to '98 and up until now?

Resident: Ah, huh.

Interviewer II: Now basically the concentration then would indicate whether or not you are in compliance or not in compliance. Can you tell, did the individual running the tests when they gave you these reports, give you an indication of what you should be looking for on this.

Resident: No.

Interviewer II: So, are you able to tell?...

Resident: No that is solely up to me to get somebody to read that for me.

Interviewer II: You certainly,... I don't understand it.

Resident: The State has never said look, bring that over here and we'll let you sit down and we'll get somebody in here to explain that to you.

Interviewer II: So you have no idea what this information means? What the ...

Resident: All I could do was compare the numbers there. I could compare if it was up or down.

Interviewer II: But that basically is only your indication of what changes might have occurred? You don't know ...

Resident: I am familiar with, what is it called... the alkaline maybe, where it is acid or base. And you can really tell it goes down, straight down.

Interviewer II: Right. Like the thresh hold levels for some of these other parameters, you don't know what it means?

Resident: No. Your solids, your suspended solids and whatever. There is another one there that's got solids. Ones solely related to mining. I can't remember exactly which one it is. There's, those things jump up and down... You just, the layman is not going to be able to tell anything about that and they know that. They'd have to hire ah ... all they had to do then is explain that to me and say, "Hey you must be a mile out of compliance here! How come I haven't heard anything?"

Interviewer II: Yeah, it is pretty hard for you to understand what is going on...

Resident: I would have to hire a contractor or a lab to do that for me.

Interviewer II: Did you get a log, did you say everybody gets these re..., did they get, you have to ask for these report?

Resident: They are doing mine because I am within a half mile of the mining.

Interviewer II: So anybody else....

Resident: They don't do anybody else. To my knowledge they don't do anybody else except me and maybe the guy up on the hill.

Interviewer II: So anybody else they are not getting those reports at all?

Interviewer: Could they request?

Resident: I don't know if they could even request them to be checked... to check them out. I

am not familiar with that. But no, to the layman it doesn't mean anything. You would have to get a lab to do it for you. It is right there.

Interviewer II: Interesting.

Interviewer: Can you tell me a little bit about the public water coming in here?

Resident: The public water is in right now. It ah, there is water coming, I'll say down the creek. It is coming from Logan County. This water is coming from Logan County. They pulled, they put a new water line up Pine Creek to the industrial park here. Some people might say that is a plus for mountaintop. I say it is not, because they will not going to hire local people for that job. They brought a water line up to it from the Logan county water plant and they're going to run water to it from the Mingo water plant at Naugatuck, so that they will have two sources of water. I understand they use a lot of water to run that thing. So in the mean time this coal company, which is A.T. Massey, has came in and then you're right at the... Duncan Fork. Have you noticed those big white tanks in those people's yards?

Interviewer: Ah hun.

Resident: Okay they have sunk all their water. The water... the mines that they are mining, according to the DEP, is where my water comes, okay.

Interviewer: So, say that again to me.

Resident: The water that they sunk for those people, which is a lower elevation than me. Is the same water, according to the DEP, that my well was in. Okay? So he tells me way back when all this started. He said because your water is gone they will have to fix your water. I said that is great. Bam! All of a sudden all those wells, there is 130, 150 wells gone down there. And they got these wide, big, white tanks. A.T. Massey's got these big white tanks in their yard. They are hauling water in trucks.

Interviewer II: Filling up those tanks.

Resident: Right. Filling up those tanks. So now they are in the process of... My brother lives down there at the mouth of Duncan Fork across the road next to the hill, and you'll see a big white tank in his yard right there. He has got a big cinder block wall, it is a gray wall like. And he informed me they are going to force him, they are making him, they are not gong to bring him any more water. He has to hook-up onto public water in order to have water. And he may or may not get paid for them destroying his water.

Interviewer II: So how much would it cost? Do you have an opportunity to hook up to public water?

Resident: Yeah I could hook up to it any time I want to.

Interviewer II: How much is that?

Resident: Cost?

Interviewer II: Cost wise.

Resident: Ah, probably cost about \$500 to hook up.

Interviewer II: And in most cases that is cost prohibitive - that is a hardship maybe?

Resident: Ah, it is a hardship and it pisses me off. It goes back, now remember we were independent. We had our own source of water and now we are forced to hook up on public water.

Interviewer II: Now you are dependant?

Resident: You're dependant on that. You've lost your independence. Now you are at the mercy of water company. You have to hook up on it. You are burdened with another monthly bill. Remember your car payments, your water bills, your electric bills come every month regardless.

Interviewer II: Because when you had a private well, like my parent do, you don't have to pay for the water. It is a natural resource.

Resident: It is a natural resource. You don't have to worry about it. You know where they water comes from. I hate city water.

Interviewer: Is that primarily, would you say, why you are not hooking up to it now?

Resident: Right. I am defiant. I won't hook on it until the very last...

Interviewer II: Until there is no other way?

Resident: Until there is no other way. Because once I hook up onto it, I might as well throw that away.

Interviewer II: And all of your complaints have been... in their...

Resident: Nullified. Gone. Zilch. Out the window.

Interviewer II: So that four-inch stack of complaints is really work going down the drain?

Resident: Down the drain. Yeah.

Interviewer II: In your opinion?

Resident: In my opinion it is gone. We get back to this down here. They told him in four months they were going to force him to hook up on it because they aren't going to bring him any more water after a certain day.

Interviewer: They told him what that day would be?

Resident: They haven't told him yet.

Interviewer: Oh.

Resident: And the DEP is not going, not going to do anything.

Interviewer: According to what they told him?

Resident: Yeah, according to what they told him. So there you have A.T. Massey which just came in and underground to destroy those wells. And the DEP refuses to intervene and do something. But getting back to me on this deal, he tells me... the mine inspector says, "When your water is gone they will have to do something." I said, "Fine. Who?" We are talking about two entities right here. We are talking about Arch Coal and Massey Energy. I said "Who?" No answer. So when my water goes I said, "Is Massey or Arch Coal going to fix my water?" And you see what happened.

Interviewer II: So out of all the impacts, and you have named off several of the mining operations, what you can tell me, what's the, what is the most significant impact? That is to come out or resulted from all these mining activities.

Resident: Most significant impact? I'd say the destruction of natural resources. Because without those, the lands... this land is worthless right now. I had this appraised again. And they appraised it as unfit to live in except for mining. The only worth of this was for mining purposes. It was not fit to live in. And I asked a couple of realtors and they said, "Yes they could come out and they could appraise your property in that manner." I said, "That is wonderful." So you live in a mining community and your property is worthless except to a coal company. And I was told that. So, they destroyed the natural resources. Before they done this mining we go back, before they started the mining now... this community was full of people then. Lots of people lived here. Everybody had good water.

Interviewer II: So is water one of those...

Resident: Water is gone. Just think about it, if you had no water, if you had no water, what would you do? Could you live in a place...?

Interviewer II: We take it for granted. I know my mom and dad, just an antidote here, my mom and dad have an on lot water well. Just like you do and it's... and the formation it is in doesn't produce as much water as other places do. We've had our well run dry. We have had to wait for the pump to fill it back up. So, and now I live on a public water supply system and I, we do take it for granted that you turn on the faucet and you have water. Back home you once in a while turn it on and you hear airline... you hear air running through the lines. So then, it *was* a hardship because you couldn't do what you wanted to do at that moment. You had to wait to it filled.

Resident: You know the saying, 'You don't miss your water until the well runs dry.' And it is true. Just like if you got up one morning and opened up the faucet and you had no water. You call the water company and 'What is the matter with it?' 'Well we had a major line break and it will be down 48 hours before you can get it.' What do you do for water?

Interviewer II: Well, you either wait or you go out and buy a jug of water like you have done.

Resident: Right. That is exactly what you do.

Interviewer II: But we are too impatient these days.

Resident: We are living in a fast paced world and we have got to have it now. Well, you know that is fine, you know, but I am trying my best to not live that way. I don't have to have it right now. Which means I will wait to the bitter end, even if it means having to do without water. So ...

Interviewer II: So your quality of life has greatly been impacted?

Resident: Yes it has. Greatly.

Interviewer II: Now I don't want to say greatly, but it...

Resident: Sure.

Interviewer II: And you can tell me yes or no, was it impacted by the loss of the, of the..

Resident: Natural ... Let's call it natural resources.

Interviewer II: ...natural resources?

Resident: Which one? There is water. And naturally when they were mining the dust in here was terrible. The ah, the ah explosives that they used - terrible. It settled in here. You can really tell it when they blasted. The destruction of the water and the land itself has really been, in my opinion it has been a disaster. And that goes back to them appraising your property as unfit to live in now. Well, that is what I told them, when they started buying people out and they started moving off and the homes that are lived in that are falling in, is an example of what they did. Cause, they tore several down.... that is one thing that I did get done. I got a couple of them that were falling in; I did get those torn down. There was one beside my mom that was falling down and I finally got them to tear that one down.

Interviewer II: The coal company?

Resident: The coal company. There is a couple more here that they tore down, that they were falling in. I don't know why they agreed to do it. I guess maybe I caught them on a good day or something, you know. Somebody had a plan to clean it up, you know.

Interviewer II: Is there any opportunity in your opinion, that people will eventually move back into Scarlet?

Resident: Ah, I am sure they probably would.

Interviewer II: Considering, you know, some people made see public water as a benefit. That they actually have a reliable source of water; we'll put it that way.

Resident: I said yes. I said yes. That is today. Eighteen months from now, no.

Interviewer II: What do you mean by that?

Resident: Because you got another coalmine coming. I don't know if I got it here or not. Anyway, I don't think I've got it. I probably got somewhere. Got it hidden. Anyway, going back to A.T. Massey down here. Ah...

Interviewer II: This is a legal advertisement for a permit that you are showing us?

Resident: Sure. Yes. Okay, yeah this is it. Yeah, this is a permit; see December 21st of ah... last year. Okay, this is last year for that.

Interviewer II: You're saying even though that they're... eighteen months from now, ...

Resident: That they will not, they will not... People would move back, today. I would say. You know this is just my opinion. Just like you said, there is public water laid, which is good. They

probably would today. That's on the assumption, that the coal company would sell their property. See all this property now belongs to the coal company.

Interviewer II: So there is no opportunity, at least right now to buy back property.

Resident: No.

Interviewer II: You are here because you own it.

Resident: Right. They will not... I was told that they will never sell that property. It will stay idle for 200 years. So, because they feel that there is a liability because if they sell it back to someone they think that they are going to be liable for something. You see. This was published back in December, which I'd been told it was coming. This is for a deep mine on number two gas that is to be put in. And you know you came by at the mouth of the holler here, when you crossed the first railroad crossing, there is a trailer there, which is a coal load out facility. Okay? That is where one of those mines is going to be, down in the ground. Okay? The same people at DE, and I took that over there, they had a map of this mine. A projection. They have engineered the map ... Are you familiar with underground?

Interviewer II: Very little. I'll be honest

Resident: Very little. You know you drill holes in the ground. Okay. There are three holes to be punched in the ground. The slope on it is 981 feet long. I don't know the elevation of it. But it's down, ... straight down is 400 feet deep, I think down to the coal seam, number two gas. They permitted that right there and that could be given out any time. And they could start mining.

Interviewer II: That is basically the entrance to Scarlet.

Resident: Right, the entrance to Scarlet. So when I took that over there, they said they had the permit. I said could I look at it. And I signed it out there was a big table in the back. I told the engineer, I went ah,... I said ah that looks about, that looks all right. I said, but I have got a question for you. He said yes? Where is that road at that goes to my home? He said what are you talking about? I said, I have got to have a road to go up Scarlet. It is not on the map. He said are you sure? I said railroad track, railroad track, yeah... I said where is the road? I said there is a road in here. He said no there is not. Get in your truck and go over and look.

Interviewer II: So the one that... in Scarlet there is one way in and one way out, because it goes up through the valley of the mountain and the entrance to that... to Scarlet Road ...

Resident: Right. And that's where it is scheduled and ah he has yet to give me an answer on that. I said you need go take your maps and your cameras and take forty-five minutes out of your work day and go there. And throw that back to those people and tell them to give you a good ah,

a good application... It is no big whoop, but you know how it goes. Up there along the road, can you tell where they are going to dig?

Interviewer II: Well actually that is what I am trying to figure out.

Resident: There are two of them. There are actually two of them.

Interviewer II: At the axis of these latitudes and longitudes?

Resident: Right. Right. There are two of them. Right here is the one at Scarlet.

Interviewer II: Yah, right here.

Resident: And this one is Hell's Creek. Remember that little prep plant that you came by?

Interviewer II: Right.

Resident: That is supposed... there is going to be two. One there and one here. And all this is number two gas. And the are going to mine from here to here or here back. And from here, they tell me, on through Logan County from this one.

Interviewer II: So this is the extent. The corner of those axis where they are showing the latitude and longitude that is the mining area proposed by this permit. And Scarlet is right in there.

Resident: Right. Like I say, I kept the old application. You know the old engineering plan.

Interviewer II: So is that...

Resident: That could come any time.

Interviewer II: Once that goes in ...

Resident: Oh yeah, once that goes in, how much room do you think it is going to take down there, to put this complex in? You know, there are certain laws you have to go back so many feet, you know to separate those things.

Interviewer II: And basically the rail line that is down there now will become operable?

Resident: No.

Interviewer II: Will be gone?

Resident: Will be moved. Will be moved. According to their,.. according to their permit application. You know? That was my beef with him. I said between the railroad tracks there you don't show my road. And he didn't understand. He was supposed to check down there and he didn't get back to me. But anyway, as of today people probably would, if their property was for sale. But when this thing goes in, it will never be for sale. So...

Interviewer II: What do you think the impacts, I know we are talking about Scarlet, you know when this mountaintop mining, I mean just as a side note... when this *does* go in, what will happen, what do you think the other people around here will do? I mean ...

Resident: It will be terrible in here because they scheduled a 20 foot diameter exhaust fan. You know what those are? You seen those in Pennsylvania?....

Interviewer II: For the underground?

Resident: For the underground, yes. There is going to be a 20 foot diameter fan down there and it is going to echo through this hollow plus push the dust. You know there is going to be dust around.

Interviewer: Do you know where the fan is going to go?

Resident: No. I have an idea and according to their plans, it is going to be what I call up the creek from... There is a little cemetery right there. Do you know the cemetery? The thing will be, ...

Interviewer: The "specific name"?

Resident: No, not the "specific name", this is the "specific name" across from the load out right there. From the load out trailer. There is a little cemetery up on the hill there, the exhaust fan... that I read the application it will be close to it. So it is going to be noise and dust, it is going to be pushed up to this hollow. It is going to be unbearable.

Interviewer II: You being an underground mine worker...

Resident: I know exactly...

Interviewer II: You know exactly what you are talking about and how that operates?

Resident: Right. Right.

Interviewer II: Interesting.

Resident: Ah...There will be dust and noise. It all depends to what degree they're going, to what kind of complex they are really going to have.

Interviewer II: And you talked about your ingress and egress, like going and coming to and from your home on Scarlet Road. Your opinion by them not showing it there basically ...

Resident: They are telling me that they are going to reroute something and they are not wanting to tell anybody. And I can't convince the gentleman at the DEP, that as a courtesy to people, they should go, and if that is an incorrect map, to go correct it. Because it is a public record and if it is incorrect, it is not right. It needs to be corrected.

Interviewer II: And to your knowledge no one has come out to actually ...

Resident: No, they have not done that.

Interviewer II: ...consider your request or your ah.. courtesy or concern that you expressed to them about the current location and how it interacts or relates to the proposed mining permit activity here?

Resident: Right. That's right.

Interviewer II: Interesting.

Resident: So you take this along with this and ah the place, the proper use don't fit.

Interviewer II: This here sort of land locked?

Resident: So, here we sit and ah you know ... But no there is nothing to stop us from picking up today and moving.

Interviewer: But this is your home place.

Resident: Sure.

Interviewer II: This is where your current home is. You live in Scarlet.

Resident: Right. Right. I spent four years in the military. I know where Pakistan is. I know where Islamabad is. I know where Peshawar is. I know where Kabul is. 'Cause I served 18 months.... covered logistics for them in the late '60s.

Interviewer II: In the Army?

Resident: Air Force.

Resident: We had an air base in Ankara, Turkey. Where we fly the jets out of for the Croatia incident.

Interviewer: I remember reading about that base.

Resident: So, I know a little bit. I am not that ignorant.

Interviewer II: Well you certainly seen more world than what we have that is for sure. Experienced more. But um... all the solitude and comforts that you have here in the U.S isn't ah...

Resident: No, my country has been asleep for thirty years. Thirty years.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you want to be sure and tell us? We certainly appreciate...

Resident: I'll probably think of something later.

Interviewer: You can call. That is why we give you that card there.

Interviewer II: "Specific name," let me just give you our 1-800 number. I think our regular number is on here but you can call the 1-800 you can ask for me and if I can't answer your question we'll get somebody...